

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Vicki Smothers as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

END UNFAIR PUNISHMENT OF
STUDENT ATHLETES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, as we all prepare for college basketball's "March Madness" this month, I am introducing a bill, the Student Athlete Fairness Act, along with Representative ROB ANDREWS, to deal with another kind of madness. Recently a number of institutions of higher education have penalized student basketball players for misconduct, by banning them from post-season intercollegiate play. I support actions by colleges and universities to hold their coaches and players accountable when they engage in misconduct of any kind. Recruiting violations, academic fraud and financial improprieties have no place in college or college sports, and deserve punishment.

However, these particular institutions are penalizing the wrong student athletes—students who were not involved in any wrongdoing. In one case, Fresno State University is barring an entire basketball team from post-season intercollegiate play for the transgressions of previous players and coaches, even though none of the current student athletes or coaches were involved in the wrongdoing at all.

We can no longer allow colleges and universities to penalize innocent student athletes. Instead institutions of higher education must focus their efforts on the guilty parties.

The Student Athlete Fairness Act would prohibit colleges from penalizing players or coaches who had no involvement in a rules violation and would also prohibit colleges and universities from being affiliated with intercollegiate associations, like the NCAA, whose policies might include sanctioning players, teams and/or coaches even if they were not involved in any rules violation.

While many schools and teams work hard to follow the rules that are intended to preserve a quality academic and campus life alongside a vibrant athletic program, some schools have chosen to make innocent students scapegoats for the actions of runaway athletic programs that give win-loss records more priority than ethics and fair play.

An integral ingredient of the college and university mission is to foster both the academic and personal development of their students—from civic engagement and community service, where students learn how to become active participants in democracy, to team athletics, where students gain valuable leadership experience. These objectives are severely undermined when students are punished harshly, in ways that can significantly affect their future careers and earnings, for violations of rules by others. This kind of substitute punishment has no place in our courts, and it should have no place in our colleges and universities either.

The Student Athlete Fairness Act would make certain that the coaches, school officials, or students who break the rules are the ones

who are punished. Innocent student athletes should be free to play ball.

CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION
ACT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in October 2002, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention released a report entitled the National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children, which estimate there are almost 800,000 reported cases of missing children. This equates to over 11 children per 1000 in the U.S. that are missing. Worse yet are the hundreds of thousands of missing children that are not reported. While a large number of missing children are runaways, too many are missing due to abduction. One way to decrease this number is to pass H.R. 1104, the Child Abduction Prevention Act. H.R. 1104 is better known as America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response Plan, the AMBER Alert.

Currently, the AMBER alert is a voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin in case of child abduction. Almost 40 states have established AMBER alerts. Since the program began a little over six years ago, the AMBER alert has been credited with the recovery of 47 children. If the plan were implemented nationwide, with federal funding, the possibilities of recovering more children increase exponentially.

As a parent and a grandparent, I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same, our children deserve it!

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SARA FISHER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize Mrs. Sara Fisher of Gypsum, Colorado. As Sara prepares to step down from her position as the Eagle County Clerk and Recorder, it is clear that the people of Eagle County are lucky to have benefited from Sara's years of service.

The job of Clerk and Recorder has presented many challenges during Sara's tenure. Since she first took office the population of the county has more than doubled. Sara modernized the county's voting system, streamlined the process of obtaining basic services, and increased staff at satellite offices. Sara, who speaks Spanish fluently, has worked to increase the number of bilingual office staff to better serve her diverse community. Throughout her service as Clerk and Recorder, Sara has always had a positive attitude about serving the people of her county. Sara serves because she loves her community, and that shows in her dedication and hard work. The people who have been fortunate enough to

have worked with Sara while she has been the Clerk and Recorder all know that she is a true asset to Eagle County, and an excellent public servant.

After more than a decade of service, Sara has recently built a new home in Gypsum and is looking forward to spending more time with her husband, Bill, and enjoying the beautiful landscape of Colorado. Throughout all of the challenges that Sara has faced, she has been a strong and competent leader in both Eagle County and throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Sara Fisher before this body of Congress and this nation. She has been a diligent servant of Eagle County and her commitment to her community will be greatly missed.

IN HONOR OF MILDRED SWANN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Californian, Mildred Swann, as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Mildred Swann organized a neighborhood forum where people of different ethnic heritages gathered to share their experiences and aspirations. She engaged many volunteers in the effort that resulted in the formation of a tutoring and mentoring program for Tongan Youth. She serves as the Facilities Chair of Community Gatepath, and in this position she led the campaign to decrease dependence on shrinking government funding while maintaining the quality of the organization's programs. She also helped Community Gatepath to work with San Mateo County to identify high-risk MediCal families and provide them with prenatal care and parenting skills.

Mildred Swann has served her community in many ways and with many organizations, and has been honored by Menlo College for her contributions to the community. She was also recognized by Foothill College Haramba for her service to youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mildred Swann as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

AMBER ALERT CONCERNS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, as an OB-GYN who has had the privilege of bringing over 3,000 children into the world, I share the desire to punish severely those who sexually abuse children. In fact, it is hard to imagine someone more deserving of life in prison than one who preys on children. Therefore, I certainly support those parts of H.R. 1104 which enhance the punishment for those convicted of federal crimes involving sexual assaults on children.

I also support the provisions increasing the post-incarceration supervision of sex offenders. However, given the likelihood that a sex